

Serial No.: 10/042,878
Filing Date: January 9, 2002

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-17 under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over ITO et al (US 6,548,219).

The applicants have canceled claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and amended claims 2, 7, 9-17. Support for all the amendments exists in the specification. In claim 2 the structure of the alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group is present on page 8, lines 18-21. Support for claim 10 is present on page 18, lines 17-20. Support for claim 12 and 13 is present on page 18, lines 6-14.

In claim 7, 'n' has been deleted. Claims 10-13 have been amended to clearly define the invention.

The present claims now describe a composition comprising a photoacid generator and a fluorinated polymer where the fluorinated polymer is a reaction product of polymer containing an aliphatic monocyclic fluoroalcohol unit with at least one compound capable of functionalizing the fluoroalcohol unit with an alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group of a structure $-(CR_3R_4)_p(CO)OR_5$, where R_3 and R_4 are independently H, F, (C_1-C_8) alkyl, (C_1-C_8) fluoroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyclofluoroalkyl, $(CR_3R_4)_p(CO)OR_5$, R_3 and R_4 may combine to form an alkylspirocyclic or a fluoroalkylspirocyclic group, R_5 is H or an acid labile group, and $p=1-4$.

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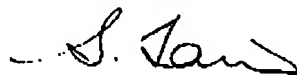
As pointed out by the Examiner, Ito describes in column 5, lines 1-17, fluorinated norbornene copolymer. A norbornene copolymer is based on a multicyclic unit in the backbone of the polymer. The present polymer has a monocyclic unit in the backbone of the polymer and so is clearly different from Ito's polymer.

The Examiner also refers to Example 5 in column 15, lines 42-column 16, et seq. where a monomer structure is described. The pendant group in this structure is a tert-butoxycarbonyl group and not an alkyloxycarbonylalkyl group of the present invention.

Since the currently amended claim 2 now refers to a monocyclic unit in the backbone of the polymer, the applicants believe they have overcome the prior art rejection issued by the Examiner.

In view of the above explanation and remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, she is requested to contact the agent for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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